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who allows the economist to stake these claims as his own is selling his historical birthright for a mess of political and military pottage.

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Why Women Are So. By MARY ROBERTS COOLIDGE. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1912. Pp. 371. \$1.50.)

In my opinion this book is the most concretely illuminating work that has been written on the "woman problem" since the publication of Mona Caird's *Morality of Marriage*. Any one who scrapes up even a superficial acquaintance with the current literature on this problem, one of the very few fundamental socio-economic problems as it is, knows how hastily the books are thrown together, what a reiterated sameness there is in them, and how clearly they betray the writers' fear that they will be too late to make their contribution to the woman movement's accelerated rapid progress unless they rush into print at once. Even the hardened reader of feminist literature will get little of this impression from Mrs. Coolidge's book, especially from the first two hundred pages, which deal with the "domestic traditions" and their effect upon women. It is true that Mrs. Coolidge has either advisedly or inadvertently allowed herself some repetition, but this is not a serious matter where the book is to be read by persons who have not hitherto had brought vividly to their consciousness what the actual psychological and economic effects of the domestic traditions of the nineteenth century were.

The question the author sets herself to answer is this: "Is the characteristic behavior which is called feminine an inalienable quality or merely an attitude of mind produced by the coercive social habits of past times?" "As a working hypothesis," she says, "it is assumed that the women of the nineteenth century in America were for the most part what men expected them to be; modified only by the disintegrating, and at the same time reconstructive, forces of modern society. In other words, sex traditions rather than innate sex character have produced what is called 'feminine' as distinguished from womanly behavior." That this "working hypothesis" is not an *a priori* conception for the substantiation of which the writer proceeds to distort the evidence of facts, but a conclusion forced upon her by experience and observation and in turn illuminating the facts, can scarcely be

denied by the honest reader, however reluctant he may be to view with cordial approval the psychic revolution now in process. Through the nineteenth century conventions of girlhood, essentially repressive as they were—and are—of physical, moral, and intellectual development; through marriage, the “great adventure” into which the girl entered ignorant and without preparation from her piously prudish and supinely hypocritical elders, the author takes us to the contrast between the actual conditions of the career of motherhood and the insincere sentimental laudation of it prevalent in the nineteenth century and now perpetuated by those popularizers who are churning up a frothy sentimentalism in the wake of the eugenists. The atrophying influence of the notion of domesticity as woman’s sole vocation is convincingly shown, and the probable stimulating effect on domestic management and economy of the fact that women are getting experience and perspective in other industries is pointed out. Not the least in interest and trenchantly critical insight are the chapters on the debilitating effect of clothes (fashion) on character, the virtues of subserviency, and the pursuit of dress, for which, in the main, economic causes are assigned.

The author has a keen and just appreciation of the ethical effects of economic dependence. So, too, with the uneconomical dissipation of energy in present-day domestic economy—of women “still clinging to the handicrafts of a bygone industrial period,” of the “convention that the domestic life was the economic sphere of women, although the necessary handicrafts which had made it so were all but gone.” One significance of the entrance of women into the professions was that until there was an imperative call to work outside the home, woman “could not develop the larger mind and become convinced of the futility of the conventional methods of housekeeping.” Mrs. Coolidge contents herself with pointing out these past and present influences on the psychology and efficiency (or inefficiency?) of woman. She does not, like Mrs. Gilman, attempt a specific and definite scheme of economic reform for the home and family.

Sometimes, perhaps, Mrs. Coolidge is a bit too clever in her insight and frank in her style to get an easy hearing with a certain type of masculine mind. It is true that “civilized man molded woman into the chaste image of what he himself would rather not be,” but is it—as yet—the best policy to tell him so with such brutal frankness?

To those economists who have no interest beyond the day-to-

day adjustment of the details of our economic machinery, the book will carry little appeal, but those who see in their science something not without real interconnection with the deeper problems of life will not regret having read it.

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Social Welfare in New Zealand. By HUGH H. LUSK. (New York: Sturgis and Walton Company. 1913. Pp. 287. \$1.50.)

The author of this book is well known in New Zealand, where he has practiced law for many years, has been a member of several parliaments and has taken a very active part in public affairs. He is, therefore, well informed on the subject, and he has written an interesting and readable book. But it is a pity that he has chosen a descriptive and laudatory rather than a discriminating and critical method of treatment. New Zealand is not an industrial paradise, and it is misleading to give the impression that all of her social experiments have been successful in every respect.

For example, in telling of the success of the state railways nothing is said of deficits; in the chapter on industrial disputes no mention is made of strikes; and in glorifying labor legislation in general no hint is given that poverty and unemployment exist, and that the working people of New Zealand, all things considered, are little, if any, more prosperous than the working classes of Australia, Canada, and the United States. Also, the prosperity of New Zealand in the past twenty years is attributed altogether to the progressive policy of the government rather than to more fundamental causes, such as the natural resources of a thinly populated country, and the invention of processes of refrigeration, by which the profits of sheep raising have been enormously increased.

A few minor errors have crept in here and there, such as the statements that the graduated land tax rose to five per cent on the market value; that the lease in perpetuity was more successful than the land tax; that the arbitration court consists of five members; that the arbitration act was first passed in 1893; that average wages have doubled in twenty years; that freight rates are lower than in America; that the policy of making advances to settlers was begun six years ago.

While a book of this character may be useful in calling atten-